RE: Dr. Tom Miller, II

Dr. Milller, in his previous life, was a General Practitioner in Edinboro, PA

He was also the Director of the Edinboro University Medical Service for 15 years, a Designated Federal Aviation Medical Examiner for 26 years, the first Medical Director of the Edinboro Manor (a 120 bed nursing/rehabilitation facility), and an Erie County Deputy Coroner, under the late Warren Wood, and then Merle Wood for 18 years.

He retired from the practice of medicine the first time in 1996, and the last time in 1998, having been called back to do Federal Aviation Work.

He now keeps busy teaching AARP Safe Driving courses, is a Docent and Presenter for the Maritime Museum and the good Brig Niagara, and is a former Trustee of the Flagship Niagara League.

He is probably best known as a Weather Watcher for WJET and Fox television. He is the temperature for Niagara Pier.
THE ERIE MARITIME MUSEUM AND THE BRIG. NIAGARA

Thank you and your .

I shall be dividing my presentation into two parts.

1. The first is a general, overall view of the Erie Maritime Museum (EMM) and the Brig. Niagara.

2. The second is a virtual tour of the Brig. As narrated by Senior Captain Walter Rybka and myself.

First of all-

The Erie Maritime Museum

As many of you are aware, The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, headquartered in Harrisburg, PA opened the EMM May 21, 1998. (I began my volunteerism in October of that same year.)

Our Museum is located in the old (1917) Pennsylvania Electric Co. Generation Station, just north of the Bayfront Hi-way and East of State Street. Penelec decommissioned their generator station in the early 1990's and several years later the Commonwealth of PA acquired the rights to the building. The Blasco Library is adjacent to the building and the Hirt Auditorium, which is also an integral part.

The EMM is the home port for the Bring. Niagara and of course, the building houses a classic Maritime Museum. WE offer interactive and multimedia exhibits, as well as interpretive programs.

THE U.S. BRIG. NIAGARA

1. The Brig is, and has been, the Commonwealth of PA’s Flagship since 1933. She encourages Erie’s Bayfront revitalization and assists in contributing to the economy of Erie. Some 40,000 visitors have been on board the Brig. This past year.
2. The Brig. helps to interpret the areas importance in winning the War of 1812. Also, she helps to illustrate the life of a crew member in 1813.

3. By the way, a Brig. has two masts, and is square rigged. A ship has three masts and is square rigged. The Brig. Is an educational tool, teaching the operation of a square rigged vessel. Square rigged means the yards and sails are mounted perpendicular to the center line of the vessel.

4. She also is a focal point for special programs and events.

5. Furthermore, she travels to various ports during the sailing season as an Ambassador for her Erie Port.

SAILING PROGRAM

The Brig. Has educational day sails. These are approximately four plus hours in length and usually includes a sail in the Bay, as well as Lake Erie. Also, demonstration drills, i.e., “man overboard,” and a fire drill, as well as a cannon drill are a part of the day sail. Students from Cathedral Prep, The Erie School District, various colleges and universities, as well as many civic groups have sailed on board. Many trainees have taken advantage of our sail training programs. These Trainees come from all over the world. They learn how to sail a square masted vessel and then return to their respective countries to captain and crew similar vessels.

The Flagship Niagara League is now responsible for not only the educational day sails, but the staff of the crew and maintenance of the Brig. Our annual expenses are between $800,000.00 and one million dollars per year. The Commonwealth of PA owns the Brig. and provides some funds toward her support. The majority of expenses have now fallen to the League. I am certain you are aware of the partial defunding of the Brig. by the Commonwealth.
PICTURES OF THE MUSEUM

1. The GE Generator - The middle or the third generator from the original Penelec Generation Station.

2. Live Fire Exhibit - This depicts the terrible damage done by a 32 pound cannon when fired the side of bulk work of the replica of the Brig. Lawrence, a sister ship to the Brig. Niagara. See the four member of the gun crew. The normal number should be seven.

3. Cannon exhibit - This is a 24 pound cannon. In the 1800's, cannons were sized and named by the weight of their non-exploding cannon balls. This cannon weighs 5700 pounds. The 32 pound carronades weighed 2500 pounds.

FLAGSHIP NIAGARA LEAGUE

The League was founded in 1982 by public spirited Erie area citizens. At that juncture, the original Niagara was literally falling apart. A decision needed to be made regarding its future. As you may recall, it had been on the west side of Stat Street, ear Smitty's Bait Shop. The prow of the USS Michigan was nearby.

The League decided that it would be impossible to rebuild and save the original Niagara. Therefore, Melborne Smith was commissioned to build a new Niagara based on measurements and photographs of the original Niagara.

The hull was built and place in the water in 1988. Due to lack of funds the present Niagara was not completed until 1991. With appropriate care, it is the hope that this Niagara can be kept sailing until the middle of this century.

The League provides:

1. Interpretation - both for the Museum and the Brig.

2. Education - We have educators that host school programs.

3. Fund Raising - Port visits, day sails, and the recent Tall Ships' Festival. The Tall Ships' Festival was a huge success with net proceeds greater than $100,000.00. This not only
provided the Brig. Not only funds for continuing operation, but also a working format for the upcoming 2013 Commemorative Bicentennial event.

FLAGSHIP NIAGARA LEAGUE

Presently, due to financial cuts by the Commonwealth, the League operates the gift shop, the many educational projects in the schools and the community. There is an excellent internet web site has been developed by the League.

STOP SLIDES

VIDEO

At this time I would like to present the Virtual Tour Video.

Several years ago, I approached the President of Edinboro University regarding a virtual tour video. As you are aware, Edinboro University has an exception educational program for the physically challenged. The Museum is completely wheel chair accessible. Unfortunately, the Bring is NOT. It was my mission to create a video for the individuals who were unable to go aboard. It would also be available when the Brig. was out on port calls or other cruises, and when bad weather presented at home port. There was a need for a virtual tour.

This is that video. John Crissman at the Video Department at EUP, along with Captain Rybka and I worked many hours to provide material for this video.

AFTER THE VIDEO

Discuss the need for volunteers.

Prices for day sails.

Questions.
MUSEUM PRICES

Adults: $8.00 Seniors: $7.00

Children: Ages 12 and up $8.00; and, Ages 3-11 $5.00. Under Age 3 is free.

Special tour prices are available.

DAY SAILS

Niagara League Members: $55.00.

Non-members: $75.00.

MEMBERSHIP